

## **DROUGHT EFFECTS ON WILDLAND FIRES**

**7864**

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Fire Danger and Fire Behavior are directly impacted by the effect drought has on the availability of vegetation to burn, the arrangement of vegetation, and the loading of vegetation. These effects can be localized within a Unit or widespread throughout California. There is a long history in California with the association between drought and wildland fire. The effects of drought with wildland fire in California have impacted the safety of firefighters and public; public and private property; vital natural resources, as well as local and statewide economies. The potential impact drought has on wildland firefighting is significant in determining CALFIRE's prevention strategy, preparedness levels, response levels, and resource positioning to ensure a high probability of safe initial attack success.

Accurate monitoring and recording of weather observations, fuel sampling, fire danger analysis, and fire behavior analysis are essential components to determine the direct effects of drought. These components become the foundation when implementing critical operational and administrative notifications of drought impact. Notifications may come in the form of Fuel and Fire Behavior Advisories, Seasonal and Monthly Assessments, National Fire Danger Rating (NFDRS) Index Charting, Fire Behavior Analysis, NFDRS Pocket Cards, Tailgate Safety Sessions, Department Safety Stand-downs, Fire Prevention Announcements, etc.

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